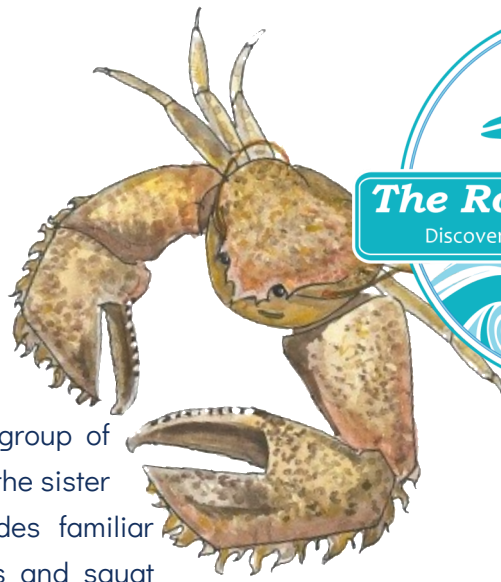


# False crabs



## Anomura

“False crabs” is a name we have given to a group of species known as anomurans by scientists. It is the sister group to true crabs (brachyurans) and includes familiar species such as hermit crabs, porcelain crabs and squat lobsters.

### How to find

Hermit crabs are famous for living in shells of other species (usually molluscs). In UK rock pools hermit crabs are often found in the shells of whelks, periwinkles and top shells, so look closely at these shells if they are on the bottom of rock pools and look for unusual movement. Other false crabs, such as porcelain crabs and squat lobsters, are most likely to be found under rocks. Be careful not to hurt yourself or the wildlife when lifting rocks and make sure you put them back afterwards how you found them.

### What's out there?

There are at least nine species that can be found on UK rocky shores. The broad-clawed porcelain crab and the common hermit crab can be found at most sites. Other species are rarer but some often be found.

## The Main Suspects



Broad-clawed porcelain crab

*Porcellana platycheles*

- Small, hairy and often covered in mud
- Broad pincers
- Mid to low shore



Common hermit crab

*Pagurus bernhardus*

- Right pincer bigger than the left
- Rows of ‘granules’ on pincers
- Low to mid shore



Long-clawed porcelain crab

*Pisidia longicornis*

- Hairless body
- Long, slender pincers
- Low shore

# False crabs

Anomura

## Other contenders



St Piran's hermit crab

*Clibanarius erythropus*

- Pincers equal in size with black tips
- Black eyes with white spots
- Mid to low shore



Common squat lobster

*Galathea squamifera*

- Green brown with red tips spines
- Long slender pincers
- Low shore



Spiny squat lobster

*Galathea strigosa*

- Large, up to 90mm body length
- Colourful with bold markings
- Low shore

## The long shots



Prideaux's hermit crab

*Pagurus prideaux*

- Pale in colour
- No point between the eyes
- Mainly subtidal



Rugose squat lobster

*Munida rugosa*

- Very long pincers
- Stripes on carapace
- Mainly subtidal



South-claw hermit crab

*Diogenes pugilator*

- Left claw is larger
- Mainly in netted dog whelk shells
- Low shore & subtidal